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BLACK PANTHER®

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DIRECT EDITION

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HUDLIN

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PREVIOUSLY

Unfettered by the yoke of colonization, the African warrior nation of WAKANDA flourished and became a high-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise—one that makes the rest of the world seem primitive in comparison. Ruling over this kingdom are the BLACK PANTHER and his queen, STORM.

The Black Panther is more than just a head of state, the leader of a warrior cult. The Black Panther is the embodiment of the ideals of a people. While T'Challa's marriage to Storm was a happy occasion, the couple was reminded that Wakanda faces difficult times ahead. Now more than ever, Wakanda needs the Black Panther to preserve its integrity and guide its people.

To assuage the fears of those who would see them as a threat and to ensure Wakanda's security in a world rocked by Civil War in the United States, the Black Panther and Storm thought it best to embark upon a diplomatic tour amongst the larger centers of global power. However, over the course of their goodwill tour, the newlyweds found themselves drawn into the conflict in America. After offering his condolences to the family of the fallen hero Goliath and receiving the advisement of his Wakandan Council, T'Challa sought out a meeting with one of the Civil War's key players: Captain America, himself!

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WAR CRIMES PART TWO

REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER

MARCUS TO AND KOI TURNBULL PENCILERS

DON HO, JEFF DE LOS SANTOS, SAL REGLA AND NICK NIX INKERS

J.D. SMITH COLORS

VC'S RANDY GENTILE LETTERS

DANIEL KETCHUM ASSISTANT EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO EDITOR

JOE QUESADA CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

SPECIAL THANKS **JASON GORDER**

I'M SORRY, HE'S NOT AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW. CAN I TAKE A MESSAGE?
IS HE THERE?
DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR HIM?
WHAT ABOUT STORM? QUEEN ORORO?
HOLD....
WHAT IS IT, STARK?
LET ME IN. WE NEED TO TALK.
WE'RE TALKING NOW.
DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
BE LIKE WHAT? YOU MEAN, TREATING YOU LIKE A MAN WHO COULDN'T PUT ASIDE HIS POLITICAL DIFFERENCES LONG ENOUGH TO ATTEND MY WEDDING? TREATING YOU LIKE A MAN WHO ATTACKED ME AND MY HUSBAND BECAUSE WE WOULDN'T PLAY YOUR POLITICAL GAMES?
THAT WAS AFTER THE PANTHER'S BODYGUARDS ATTACKED JIM RHODES!
THEY ATTACKED A SENTINEL WHO WAS ATTACKING THEIR KING WHILE HE WAS PROTECTING A CHILD. AM I SUPPOSED TO HAVE SYMPATHY FOR A SENTINEL?

THIS WASN'T SOME MUTANT-HUNTING ROBOT. IT HAD A HUMAN BEING INSIDE. AND IF HIS ATTACKERS AREN'T EXPELLED IMMEDIATELY, THEN THEY WILL HAVE TO STAND TRIAL.
AND IF YOU PROTECTED YOUR PRESIDENT'S LIFE WHILE VISITING LATVERIA, WOULD YOU EXPECT THE SAME TREATMENT?
CAN WE SIT DOWN AND TALK THIS THROUGH LIKE CIVILIZED PEOPLE?
KRA-BOOOM!
CIVILIZED? I'M SURE BILL FOSTER'S FAMILY WOULD QUESTION YOUR QUALIFICATIONS THERE.
DON'T MAKE THIS HARDER THAN IT NEEDS TO BE....
KEEP THREATENING ME. PLEASE.
NOW STEP OFF MY LAND. THIS IS WAKANDAN PROPERTY.

QUEEN ORORO, THAT WAS... YOU ARE...
...VERY FORMIDABLE.
OH, THAT WAS NOTHING. TRY FACING DOWN A HIVE OF THE BROOD....
HELLO, ORORO. ANY WORD FROM YOUR HUSBAND?
I'M SURE HE'LL SHOW UP SOONER OR LATER. ANY MESSAGES?
I WISH I COULD BE AS RELAXED AS YOU. I'VE GOT U.S. MARINES ON MY DOORSTEP.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
"THEY'RE PRACTICING *WAR GAMES* IN NEIGHBORING NIGANDA. I GET THE MESSAGE. I JUST WANTED TO PASS IT ON TO THE KING."

WHAK
THUK
EXIT
WHUP

NICE.
WHAM
FWPT
SLAM

I COULD HAVE CRUSHED YOUR HEAD LIKE A GRAPEFRUIT, STEVE.
IN A *REAL* FIGHT? I DON'T THINK SO.
WELL, I GUESS I DESERVED THAT AFTER MY CHEAP SHOT YESTERDAY.
THIS IS SERIOUS, STEVE. YOU HAVE GOT TO LET YOUR WOUNDS HEAL. IF YOU KEEP PUSHING IT LIKE THIS, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE READY.
SPEAKING OF READY... ARE *YOU* READY TO MEET THE REST OF THE RESISTANCE?
YES...BUT I WANT TO DO IT *MY* WAY.

STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON D.C...
TROOPS IN NIGANDA?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE WAS NO PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR AN INVASION?
THAT WAS UNTIL WE GOT THIS INTELLIGENCE REPORT THAT PANTHER IS BUILDING A SUPER HERO ARMY, ROSS.
AND WHO'S IN THIS "SUPER HERO ARMY"?
WELL, THE CORE MEMBERS ARE PANTHER, STORM, DR. DOOM AND NAMOR. THE NEW "FRIGHTFUL FOUR."
ARE YOU SAYING THEY CALL THEMSELVES THAT?
THE PANTHER RECRUITS SUPER-POWERED AMERICANS WHO WANT TO EMIGRATE, THEN STARTS A TRAINING CAMP FOR SUPER-POWERED BEINGS FROM THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.
OKAY, SINCE I'M THE WAKANDAN EXPERT IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT--WHO WROTE THIS?
CLASSIFIED, SON.
SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THIS BAD INFORMATION BLOWS UP LIKE YELLOW CAKE?
I HAVE A FEELING WAKANDA WILL BLOW UP FIRST.

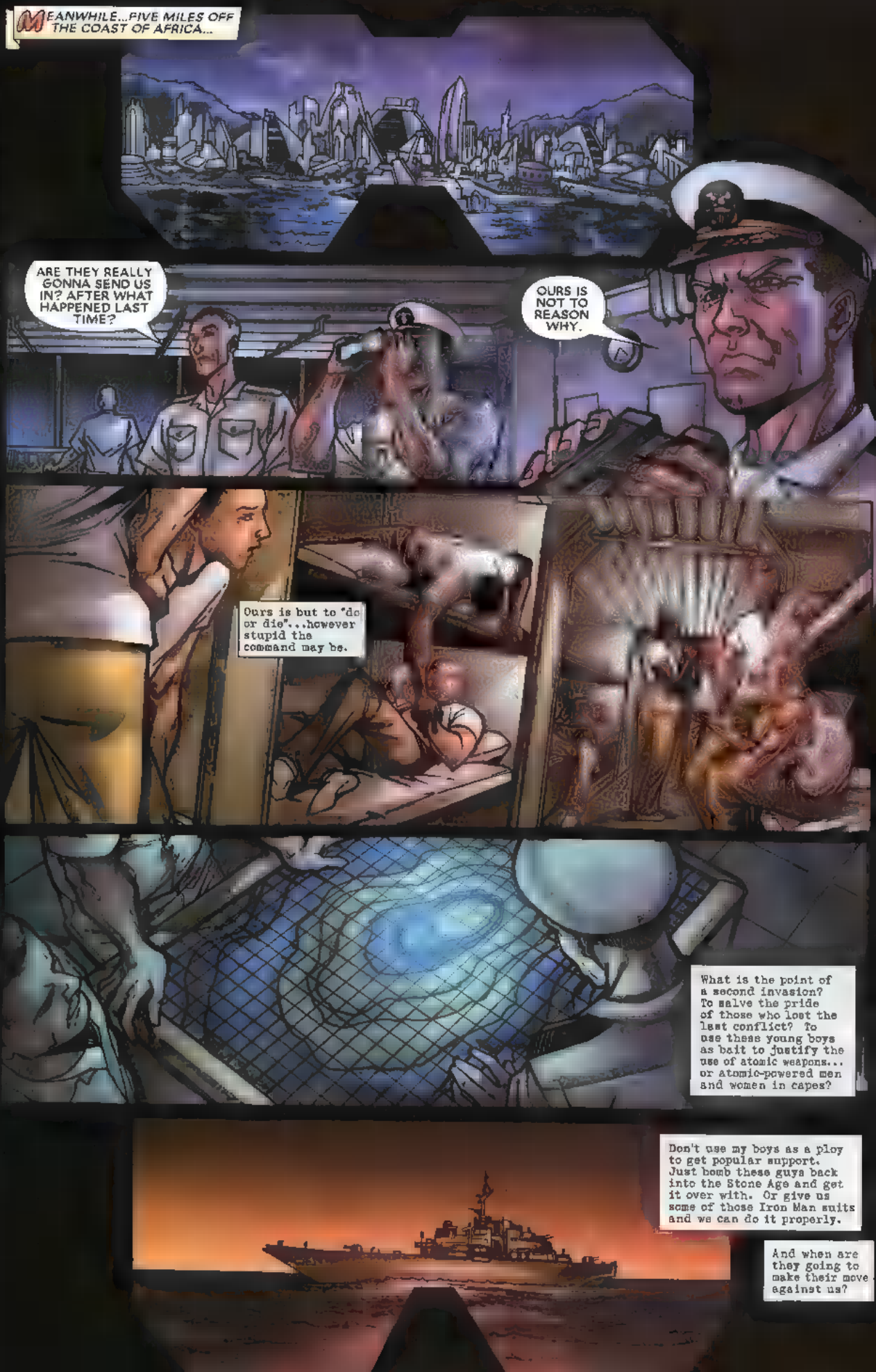
WAKANDA...
BROTHER VOODOO! HOW GOES IT?
WELL, THANK YOU. WAKANDAN HOSPITALITY IS EXTRAORDINARY.
DO YOU THINK MORE OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN WILL TAKE UP T'CHALLA'S OFFER?
WELL, I HOPE A SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE REGISTRATION CRISIS [redacted] THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE IT A NONISSUE.
BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH YOUR PRIESTS HERE. THERE'S [redacted] A FASCINATING EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. I HAD NO IDEA HOW CLOSELY THE SPIRITUAL AND THE SC[redacted]TIFIC WERE [redacted] WAKANDA.
IT'S ALL A CONTINUUM TO US.
I'M STILL SEARCHING [redacted] THE WHEREABOUTS OF THAT SHAPE-SHIFTER OR BODY STEALER WHO WAS AT THE WEDDING.
STILL [redacted] PERCEPTION OF HIM? OR HER?
NOT YET. THEY KNOW THEY ARE BEING HUNTED, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY WILL MAKE A PLAY FOR A POWERFUL HOST. AND THAT'S WHEN THEY WILL BE CAUGHT.

MEANWHILE...
HEY, SUE. WHERE YA GOING?
ON A MISSION FOR CAP, TIGRA. HE DIDN'T SAY WHAT.
HELLO...? SOMEONE I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HERE...?
HELLO, SUE.
T'CHALLA!
YOU'RE HERE TO HELP, RIGHT?
YES.
THANK GOODNESS.
IT'S....GOOD TO SEE YOU?
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOO.

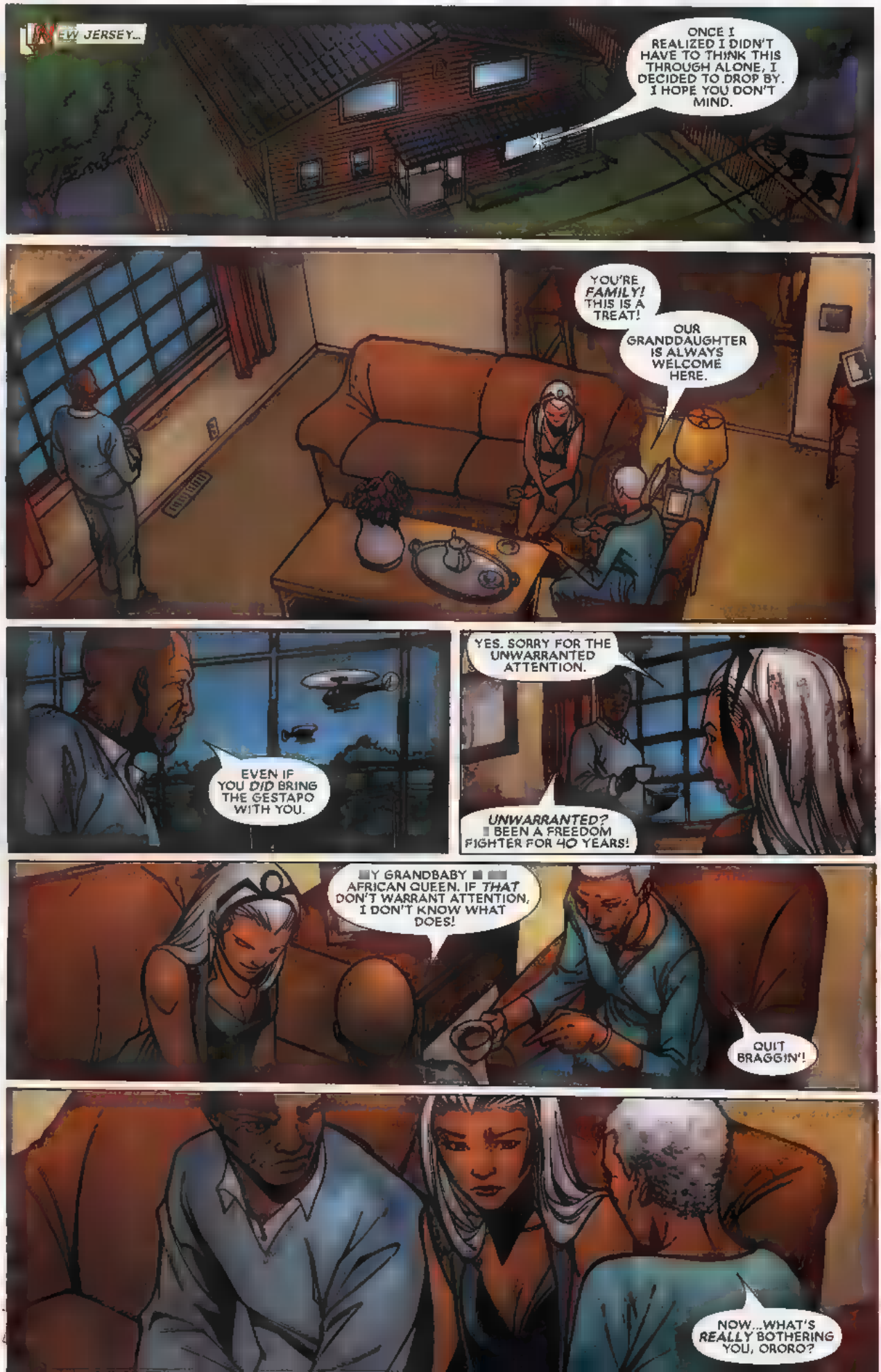
THIS MUST BE UNBELIEVABLY HARD ON YOU, SUSAN. OPPOSING YOUR HUSBAND, LEAVING YOUR KIDS....
OH GOD, DON'T GET [redacted] CRYING AGAIN, T'CHALLA. IT'S JUST [redacted] SO...
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARE YOU... SNIFFING ME?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SUSAN?
S.H.I.E.L.D
YOU ARE! YOU ARE SMELLING ME.
YOU'RE CHECKING TO SEE IF I'M LYING.
SUSAN, I--
YOU'RE LIKE MATT MURDOCK WITH THE HEIGHTENED SENSES. YOU'RE CHECKING FOR SWEAT OR ANXIETY.
I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, "OF COURSE I'M EXAMINING YOU CAREFULLY. YOU'RE AN IMPROBABLE RECRUIT, BUT A GOOD CHOICE FOR A SPY. I'LL BE CHECKING OUT THE ENTIRE TEAM THIS WAY."
RIGHT. GOOD.
SO I PASS THE SMELL TEST?
YOU DO.

QUEEN ORORO! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TOO MUCH SITTING AROUND WAITING. CALL [redacted] IF YOU HEAR FROM MY HUSBAND.
WAIT! THE DORA MILAJE MUST ACCOMPANY YOU!
NO! AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH THE SENTINELS, THEY ARE TARGETS! AND I DO NOT NEED BABYSITTERS!
SHE'S ON THE MOVE!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, BUT TRACK HER. SHE MAY LEAD US TO THE PANTHER.
I DON'T NEED TO BE HERE. I COULD BE WITH MY BELOVED [redacted] A LUSH TROPICAL [redacted]. I COULD BE LIVING [redacted] I DREAMED ABOUT WHEN I LIVED IN THE DESERT [redacted] A CHILD.

WHOA!
T'CHALLA! HEY, NO WONDER THIS IS HUSH-HUSH, EVEN WITH THE SECRET AVENGERS!
TONY AND REED SHOULD JUST GIVE UP NOW!
HOW ARE THE WINGS HOLDING UP?
LET ME SHOW YOU!
NICE. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT SOME UPGRADES. WHEN I GET A CHANCE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. DO YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN CRACK NUMBER 42?
I HAVE MY WAYS.


MEANWHILE...FIVE MILES OFF THE COAST OF AFRICA...
ARE THEY REALLY GONNA SEND US IN? AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?
OURS IS NOT TO REASON WHY.
Ours is but to "do or die"...however stupid the command may be.
What is the point of a second invasion? To salve the pride of those who lost the last conflict? To use these young boys as bait to justify the use of atomic weapons... or atomic-powered men and women in capes?
Don't use my boys as a ploy to get popular support. Just bomb these guys back into the Stone Age and get it over with. Or give us some of those Iron Man suits and we can do it properly.
And when are they going to make their move against us?

ARE WE REALLY GOING TO LET THEM GET THAT CLOSE? WE COULD DESTROY THEM WITH THE FLIP OF A SWITCH!
[redacted] COURSE WE COULD. [redacted]'S NOT [redacted] POINT.
I THOUGHT THAT [redacted] THE POINT. WE MUST PROTECT OUR BORDERS! THEY'VE TRIED IT BEFORE. WHY ARE WE GIVING THEM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT?
BECAUSE WE'RE *NOT* DECLARING WAR ON THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT OUR KING SAYING TO.
EVEN IF WE NEVER ADMIT IT OUTSIDE OF THIS ROOM, LET US [redacted] TRUTHFUL WITH EACH OTHER. OUR KING HAS ABANDONED US. AGAIN. WE NEED TO MAKE DECISIONS OURSELVES [redacted] CALL A SPECIAL CEREMONY TO CHOOSE A NEW [redacted].
TREASON!
YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH!
THE WIFE HAS UNDONE HIM.
DO YOU THINK *YOU* COULD BE A BLACK PANTHER?
YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR REMARKS.
THIS IS BENEATH [redacted]. WE SOUND LIKE THE GOVERNMENTS WE MAKE FUN OF.


NEW JERSEY...
ONCE I REALIZED I DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK THIS THROUGH ALONE, I DECIDED TO DROP BY. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND.
YOU'RE *FAMILY!* THIS IS A TREAT!
OUR GRANDDAUGHTER IS ALWAYS WELCOME HERE.
EVEN IF YOU *DID* BRING THE GESTAPO WITH YOU.
YES. SORRY FOR THE UNWARRANTED ATTENTION.
UNWARRANTED? I BEEN A FREEDOM FIGHTER FOR 40 YEARS!
[illegible]Y GRANDBABY [illegible] AFRICAN QUEEN. IF *THAT* DON'T WARRANT ATTENTION, I DON'T KNOW WHAT DOES!
QUIT BRAGGIN'!
NOW...WHAT'S *REALLY* BOTHERING YOU, ORORO?

I KNOW WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR IS RIGHT... BUT I FEEL LIKE I MAY HAVE UNDULY INFLUENCED MY HUSBAND TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING HE *SHOULDN'T* HAVE.
HA!
HONEY, I *MET* YOUR HUSBAND. HE BEEN DOING WHAT HE *WANT* TO DO FOR A LONG TIME. HE LOVES YOUR DIRTY DRAWERS, BUT HE AIN'T DOING NOTHING HE DON'T *WANT* TO DO.
I'VE ONLY BEEN A QUEEN FOR A SHORT TIME, BUT MY PRIORITIES ARE ALREADY CHANGING. I REALLY HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS FROM A WAKANDAN PERSPECTIVE...
YOU HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS FROM A *GLOBAL* PERSPECTIVE, WHICH REQUIRES A MORAL PERSPECTIVE...WHICH IS WHY YOU'RE THE QUEEN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WHEN YOU GET PREGNANT, I WANT YOU TO SIT DOWN AND TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND YOUR SEED. UNTIL THEN, KEEP PUTTING FOOT TO BUTT, YA HEAR?
YES MA'AM!

THE BAXTER BUILDING...
HOPEFULLY, WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO USE HIM AGAIN. BUT THAT'S UNLIKELY. IN ANY CASE, HE'S READY TO GO.
LET'S CLEAN HIM UP AND SEE IF THE NEW PROTOCOLS WORK.
MR. RICHARDS, YOU'VE DONE SOME BRILLIANT WORK TODAY, BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT THAT IS. YOU CLONED THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER? I MEAN, ISN'T THAT A MYTH?
I AM NO MYTH!

SHE'S APPROACHING THE BAXTER BUILDING. MAYBE THAT'S HER TARGET?
DO NOT ATTACK UNTIL SHE MAKES THE FIRST MOVE. YOUR VEHICLE IS TOO VULNERABLE TO HER POWERS.
I AM QUEEN ORORO OF WAKANDA. I WISH TO SPEAK WITH REED RICHARDS.
MA'AM, NOT TO BE DISRESPECTFULTO A HEAD OF STATE, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED AHEAD. NO ONE SEES THE BIG BRAIN-- ESPECIALLY MUTANTS BEGGING TO BE DEPORTED FOR FLAGRANT USE OF UNREGISTERED POWERS.
I SEE. GOOD THING YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO BE DISRESPECTFUL, THEN.
ORORO...?

WHIRR
COME ON UP!
SO. TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS VISIT?
WE NEED TO TALK, REED...
...ABOUT REGISTRATION.
Next: THUNDER AND LIGHTNING